IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 18.

Please amend the claims in the above-referenced patent application as set forth in Attachments A and B.

REMARKS

This submission is responsive to the Office Action mailed July 2, 2002. The Office Action sets forth the following objections and rejections regarding the above captioned application, each of which is addressed below. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the instant application. Claims 1-17 and 19-26 remain pending in this application.

Amendments

The specification has been amended so that the term "workflow" is consistently used as one word.

In the claims, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the function of processor element within the overall system claimed. Further, Claims 17 has been amended to more clearly define the method provided for reading forms into electronic format.

35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner notes that the phrase "executing related processes and providing contingent workflow is undefined and unduly vague." Claim 1 has been amended to replace "executing related processes and providing contingent workflow" with the phrase "providing contingent

ATTACHMENT B

Clean Copy of Amended Claims

1.   (Amended) A system for converting forms to electronic format, comprising:

an interface to at least one intake service for receiving forms;

at least one image generator, communicating with the intake service, to convert the forms into electronic format;

at least one processor for providing contingent workflow;

at least one terminal, communicating with at least one processor, operable to edit form data;

an interface to at least one external data entry vendor; and

an interface to at least one subsequent process that will utilize data on the electronic form.

2.   The system of claim 1, wherein the intake service comprises a mail delivery service.

3.   The system of claim 1, wherein the intake service comprises the output of a facsimile machine.

4.   The system of claim 1, wherein the image generator comprises optical character recognition software for reading machine printed text.

5.   The system of claim 1, wherein the image generator comprises intelligent character recognition software for reading handwritten text.

6.   The system of claim 1, wherein the processor alters workflow based at least on the ability to read the form type.

7.   The system of claim 1, wherein the processor alters workflow based at least on the presence of a change of address.

8.   The system of claim 1, wherein the processor alters workflow based at least on the priority of the form to a using entity.

9.   The system of claim 1, wherein the processor alters workflow based at least on errors received from external data entry operators.

10.   The system of claim 1, wherein the subsequent process utilizing data on the electronic form comprises a transaction.

11.   The system of claim 10, wherein the transaction comprises review of credit card applications.

12.   The system of claim 1, wherein the subsequent process utilizing data on the electronic form comprises construction of a database.

13.   A method for converting forms to electronic format, comprising:

(a) receiving forms;

(b) reading the forms into electronic format;

(c) processing the forms according to a contingent workflow; and

(d) making the form data available to a subsequent process.

14.   The method of claim 13, wherein step (a) of receiving comprises receipt from a mail delivery service.

15.   The method of claim 13, wherein step (a) of receiving comprises receipt of a form from a facsimile machine.

16.   The method of claim 13, wherein step (b) of reading comprises image capture

17.   (Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein step (b) of reading comprises optical character recognition.

18.   Cancelled.

19.   The method of claim 13, wherein step (c) of processing comprises a workflow contingent on the ability to identify the form type.

20.   The method of claim 13, wherein step (c) of processing comprises a workflow contingent on the presence of a change of address.

21.   The method of claim 13, wherein step (c) of processing comprises a workflow contingent on the priority of the form.

22.   The method of claim 13, wherein step (c) of processing comprises a workflow contingent on the type of error received from external data entry operators.

23.   The method of claim 13, wherein step (d) of making comprises a process that writes data to another location.

24.   The method of claim 13, wherein step (d) of making comprises a process that allows data to be read from another location.

25.   The method of claim 13, wherein step (d) of making comprises data sharing with a transaction.

26.   The method of claim 25, wherein the transaction is review of credit card applications.

27.   The method of claim 13, wherein step (d) of making comprises data sharing with a

database.